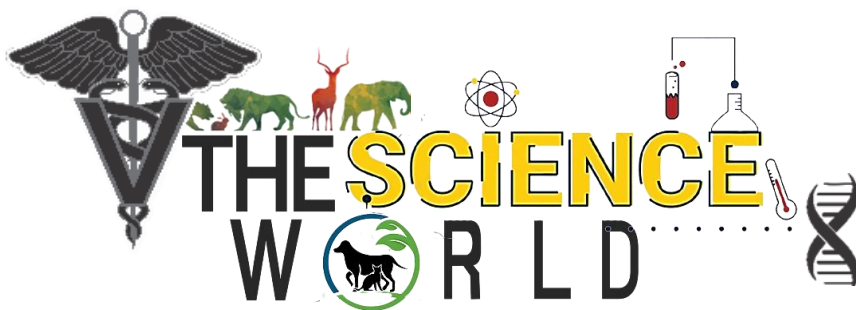




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Popular Article

The Silent Progression: Early Diagnosis and Management of Chronic Kidney Disease in Dogs

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As our furry friends grow old and their pace slow down they settle into their comforting rhythm of senior life but the old age also brings changes in their life beneath the surface and one such most common and often stealthy condition is Chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Kidney are the Primary filtration organ that helps in filtration of blood along with production of blood, Balancing of electrolyte and regulate blood pressure. Despite there is no cure an early diagnosis by a veterinarian could make many dogs to continue to live a happy life.

Silent signs of kidney disease :

Kidney disease are very good at masking since the kidneys have massive “reserve capacity” the early signs of degeneration is not easily evident. The two earliest red flag are :

- **Drinking more water than usual (Polydipsia) :** You might found that your dog is drinking more water than usual.
- **More frequent urination (Polyuria) :** your dog may urinate more frequently than usual.

As the disease progresses you would eventually see Anorexia, lethargy, loss of body weight, Vomition and Anaemia too.



How Veterinarian catch it Early :

Veterinarians depend upon various combination of tests to evaluate the health of kidney.

- **Urine analysis :** It is essential first step, the specific gravity of urine tells how well the kidneys are concentrating urine. Diluted watery urine is first clinical clue, Presence of protein indicates Renal filtration damage.
- **Blood chemistry :** BUN and Creatinine remains an important indicator. Moreover Creatinine may not increase until a considerable decrease in glomerular filtration has occurred.
- **SDMA test :** Symmetrical dimethylarginine is relatively new and highly sensitive biomarker that is used.

From Diagnosis to Staging :

If the dog is diagnosed with CKD, Veterinarian will use **IRIS (International renal interest society)** to stage the disease from **Stage 1 (early) to Stage 4 (advanced)**.

Management of CKD: Multi-faceted approach :

While the damage cannot be reversed treatment focuses on slowing down the progression of the disease and minimizing the workload of kidneys. Management strategies usually include :

- **Therapeutic Diet :**

Diet is the cornerstone for CKD management.

These specially formulated foods are designed to reduce the workload on the kidney. Typically, these diets are low in phosphorus, high-quality but lowered protein to reduce waste buildup, and added omega-3 fatty acids.

- **Hydration :**

Provide fresh water to your dog as failing kidneys cannot conserve water effectively; your dog is at a constant risk of dehydration.

- **Routine Checkups :**

Dogs with early-stage kidney disease should see their veterinarian every 3 to 6 months, for better assessment.



Moving forward with Confidence :

A diagnosis of CKD can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't mean your dog's good days are behind them. By partnering closely with your veterinarian, staying vigilant about changes in your dog's drinking & eating habits, and sticking to a management plan, you can help your furry companion enjoy their golden years with dignity and comfort.

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